HR, JNS

10/9/71

Dear Paul,

To you has fallen the chore of getting copies of my limited editions for me and for other critics, and you have been kind and helpful about it. With the new last part of PH, of which I have already written you, this will be simpler for I'll be asking less of you. There has been an unpleasant development of the kind you first pretended didn't exist and then found unpleasant and prefered to have nothing to do with. Unfortunately, I have to live with these things, find them more disagreeable than you for they affect me, thus the simplification. There will be fewer copies for I will permit fewer and I now anticipate I'll not be able to afford any of the two pages per single sheet copies.

Here is the present status, copies first. I'll permit them only to you, MV should he want one, JS ditto, MF and SM. Nobody else unles JW should want one, as in the past he hasn't. In each case the restriction will be no lending around, no disclosure of contents, etc., more so in this case because the situation is hairier and the evil potential greater. In deference to your distatse, no details. But this is one of the kind I hadn't anticipated, involving Cyril, the last one in the world of whom I'd have expected it, and the worst judgement yet. I asked him if he had considered the possibility he would wind up another JG. If this seems improbable to you, you needn't believe it. I am convinced it is the reality. And, unless you want something to worry about, its potential, all you need do is remember the injunction on the limitations I impose. I'd be just as happy if nobody was told I'd finished the book. I have the intro and conclusions to complete, but the body is done, save for corrections.

A friend has an idea that is something like what Matt Herron and I discussed some years ago, when we sought and couldn't get Vince's help. He is condensing and popularizing the longer work into one that can sell for $5.00. This has many advantages, price and size being the more obvious. However, we hope to be able to arrange a simultaneous appearance of the private edition, with a full appendix of all the new documents, perhaps some pictures, I should say some for sure and others depending on costs, for it is , aside from the cost of the extra page of the book, about $2.00 per picture to shoot.

Anyway, the present situation is that I plan to try and post the corrections Lil made as she typed it over this weekend. This I have to do before xeroxing because she has attached them to each page. Then I'll see about xeroxing....Add HR to the list.

I will not immediately do the appendix. What I may do it work on some of it twixt and tween other things. But none of it will be in what will be xeroxed immediately. Those of the earlier two parts will be changed. I have cuts some subjects out of I, as Eane and ABA. Others may beunnecessary or run costs too high. I hope to be able to make a reasonable determination of indispensibility in a work that will be a complete record on this aspect for the future and will be adequate backstopping for the shorter version. Copies, in time, will be available to the same few. You have much of it for I've sent it to you as I accumulated it. What you do not have an understand only in part is the productivity of the suit for the pix. I have a number now and they introduce a while new element I can't now go into but I think discloses a new reason for all the fakery. This work has been financed by a friend. As of now it looks like what he gave me will cover it, but because some is in color it is not now certain. I have in my possession I think 8 more new 4x5 bows, not at the photographers, and more than that many where the photographic work has been done. I think I'm going to be able to get the color processing done myself. Their lab's work is = to that of the FBI, which did the most perfectly terrible work. The FBI color pix are so bad the good photog at Arch is having trouble copying. The last batch has to be done over. Anyway, when you get your copy and have a chance to read it, I'll, of course, welcome suggestions. On the phael part, for example, you even found typos I missed...The next step after xeroxing and copyrighting will be to post the corrections in the two earlier parts, which will be preceeded by my reading the suggestions others made earlier. I felt I had to reread the entire thing before I could properly appraise them.

Ego-tripping and political stupidity is what I never expected from Cyril. Among the by-products is that I now can't tell him more and regret that with which I did trust him. In a way I do not fully understand and don't intend to waste time trying to learn Bud is part of this. He, too, is ego-tripping in the same area. Rather than working cooperatively, of which he is capable only as an octopus, he has had Bob wasting an enormous amount of time going over the same thing. As of today, with all this work and all that is now available in the Arch, Bob understands less than I did by 2/15/65 when I had completed WW. In fact, Bob has yet to understand what is in that. They will waste more money on this futility than it would cost to print the entire work. I have spent some time with Bob trying to enhance his understanding, but I'll do no more of that for two reasons: he knows it all already and I do not now dare tell them of my new things for fear of what insanity they will pull. In this connection, two things: I have JL up to date. He has studied those pictures I have had printed with me. I can't use Cyril, but at some point we'll have Jim's wife, who is a clinical rather than a forensic pathologist go over them. JL saw the most-recently printed this week. And they have yet to let me know that they redid and printed that Boggs memo. Your carbon was my first knowledge. But if after all the critiques they were stupid enough to publish it, from which nothing could be gained, and then persisted in error, you have enough evaluation of Bob, who considers himself the living oracle, regardless of how he comes accross in what he writes you, and resents anyone even suggesting he could make a mistake or that there is anything he doesn't or can't understand. It is really impossible for one not in it to begin to understand the ego-domination of that entire operation, as I suspect you are only now beginning to plumb their ignorance. To give you a glimmer, and t is I feel I must do for until the present situation if over, I think you would be well advised to send them nothing, let me tell you that as of today, despite all they have gotten from me, I have yet to get the first page of anything Bob has found in the Archives, or the first page that Bud has told him to give me. Meanwhile, after the Sprgque first misuse of my material given them in confidence, I asked for all of it back, and it was agreed to, and a letter to all their nuts saying that anything copied from their files was to be used without checking to see if it was CTIA material only, that too, was agreed to, and in two years it has not happened, neither. I am the investigator on the Ray case, and I am still asking for what they have never given me. It has come to the point where Jim is embarrassed because I have gotten some of these things on my own and he is unaware of them, and this includes the best leads we today have. They have them in the files and don't understand them and never gave them to me, as they were supposed to (for what other purpose is there any investigator?), and I get them from Ray and through censorship.

What I am telling you is that we are approaching a situation that may do much more harm than JG did and what I am asking you to do is to resort to the standard of the spookery, need to know. There is no CTIA need to know, for example, not under any circumstances I can conceive. Here again I must enjoin you to strict confidence. Bud had arranged another ego-trip, this time with the Chicago Daily News (what he had Fred Cook do is much less than his intent, hope and capability). JL, detecting what was afoot, saw to it that the reporter met me. In fact, he then came here and spent a day here, JL bringing him. If he can get a story used, I doubt it will now come from a nuthouse. And at the least it will be less of a glorificati of Bud personally.

If you ever have occasion to make any copies of the Bobbs/Computer thing, I'd like to see it. This time nobody has sent it to me. If you understood the original form in which no alteration would be brooked you have a faint understanding of the permeating political stupidity. It would have been utterly ruinous to Boggs had he used it. Aside from the horrible thing this would have been, there would never be what there yet remains as a possibility, that he will be of some use. If I could turn Russell on, why should we regard Boggs as impossible?

I began intending to tell you only of the xeroxing, then decided that, if incompletely and without taking time for details or proof I should warn you. This got me away from the xeroxing. If that is too much trouble for you now, please let me know and I'll let the few others know and they can have full-size copies made from mine. Perhaps if her situation is not as bad as I suspect with her husband, MF will do it. GAS will have a copy available anyway. SM has facilities. Perhaps she can make her own, too. I am sorry to have to write such unpleasant things, but please heed my injunction on the potential of what impends. Best, HW